

Maurice Hinchey NEWS

26TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT, NEW YORK

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ENDICOTT PERFORMING ARTS CENTER APPROVED FOR \$100,000 GRANT

HINCHEY SECURED FUNDING IN SPENDING BILL

WASHINGTON - U.S. Representative Maurice Hinchey (NY-26) today announced that a \$100,000 grant he secured for the Endicott Performing Arts Center (EPAC) will soon be available for the restoration of the Lyric Theater. Hinchey, a member of the House Appropriations Committee, successfully requested these funds in the VA-HUD Appropriations Bill for fiscal year 2002.

"EPAC has been working hard to raise money for this restoration and I'm happy to be able to help," said Hinchey. "This funding will not only help to restore a historic building, it will also provide a great venue for entertainment and educational purposes. It will provide a great boost for the Endicott community."

The Endicott Performing Arts Center, a non-profit organization, has been raising funds to restore the Lyric Theater to a fully functioning performing arts theater since 1998. The theater, which was built in 1917, has been unoccupied for several years and has fallen into serious disrepair. The \$100,000 grant will go toward replacing the original pressed tin ceiling, installing a new theater rigging system, replacing wall coverings and carpeting, and completely renovating the building.

Although the funding was secured in the bill that was signed into law in November, EPAC, like all earmark recipients, was required to provide additional information to show that its application met federal funding criteria. Hinchey today was informed by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development that EPAC has met this requirement and that a funding letter has now been approved. This will allow EPAC to start spending the grant money.